



Recycle This! Newsletter

*Newsletter of the Maine State Planning Office, Waste Management & Recycling Program * March 2002*

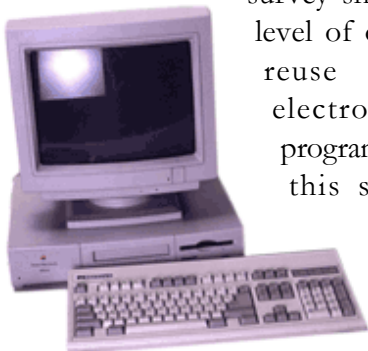
Used Electronics Recycling Efforts Continue

USDA Electronics Collection Projects to take place in Pittsfield & Farmington

The US Dept. of Agriculture has selected the North East Recycling Council (NERC) to conduct two electronics collections in each of the following states: Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The Pittsfield Region and Sandy River Recycling Region have accepted this opportunity for Maine. NERC will provide assistance with implementation of these electronics collections, but funding will come from local sources. A formal RFP process will be completed by the beginning of March to determine the contractor for the regional project. Collections are expected to occur by mid-summer 2002. For more information, contact Tom Miragliuolo at 1-800-662-4545.

Electronics Market Survey

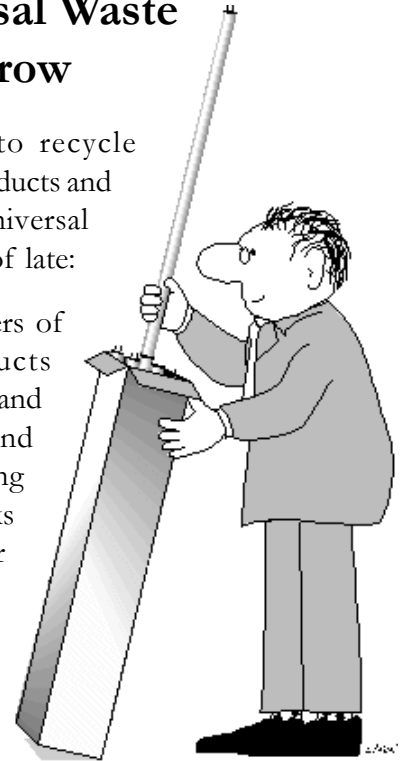
NERC will also be conducting a survey of electronics recyclers in the Northeast to determine the status of the reuse market for unwanted electronics such as computers and televisions. The survey questions and format are now being revised and will be administered by NERC this spring. The results of this survey should reveal the level of opportunity for reuse in municipal electronics recycling programs. Results from this survey will be posted online as soon as they become available.



Mercury and Universal Waste Recycling Start to Grow

Municipal and State efforts to recycle unwanted mercury containing products and other items now considered Universal Wastes have hit some milestones of late:

- All but one of the initial orders of pre-fab mercury waste products storage sheds have been delivered and are now in place. Only the island community of Isleboro is waiting for theirs as the transporter works out the details of getting his car carrier with the 8'x12' shed onto the ferry and safely out to the island. Inmates at the Windham Correctional Center built the sheds.
- Of those programs that opted for grants to hold collection events, the Regional Waste Systems (RWS) special mercury waste collection and the four regional collection events sponsored (respectively) by Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG), Bangor, Saco, and Waterville have been concluded. Still waiting to set a date in 2002 are the Hancock County Planning Commission and the Lincoln County Recycling Program.
- Grant projects in municipalities that opted for cash grants are coming together more slowly. Those communities have committed to build larger storage facilities, because they intend to store computers and televisions (CRT devices) in addition to the mercury products. Only four of the twenty four grant recipients have submitted requests for reimbursement for their grant funds: Tri Community Recycling and Landfill in Fort Fairfield; Sandy River Recycling Association of Farmington; Kennebec Valley Regional Waste Corp. in Bingham; and, the City of Brewer Pollution Control Facility. Many programs are waiting for the new budget year to appropriate funds in addition to their grants prior to beginning construction.



(cont'd on page 2)

Mercury & Universal Waste Recycling *(cont'd from page 1)*

- The majority of grant recipients intend to offer recycling services for these items to small businesses in their communities, which is one of the major goals of the grants program.

SPO has concluded a statewide service agreement with ElectroniCycle, Inc. for the collection, transportation, and recycling of computers, televisions, and other electronics. This agreement is available to all public entities in the state and establishes a single price per pound for these combined services from Kittery to Fort Kent. SPO is still working as of this date to conclude a service agreement for the recycling of Mercury Products and the collection and disposal of PCB Ballasts. Since the State began this process last year at this time, the private waste management companies have responded, with several new operations starting up in anticipation of a growing demand for these services from public and private sectors.

Municipal Composting Training Sessions



SPO's Sam Morris and George MacDonald will be assisting Mark King and Carla Hopkins of DEP's Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management in providing a training session to municipal solid waste facility operators on 'Leaf and Yard Waste Composting'. The day-long session will cover basics of composting, sources of organics, siting and facility concerns, and marketing of finished compost. The session will conclude with a 'virtual tour' of a number of active composting operations across the state.

This training session is one of seven different topics being offered through DEP's transfer station operator certification program, designed to help towns improve operations, safety/regulation compliance and recycling/composting activities at municipal solid waste facilities. The 'Leaf and Yard Waste Composting' training session is being offered in early/mid March at three locations around the State. For more information, contact George MacDonald at SPO (287-5759) or george.macdonald@state.me.us.

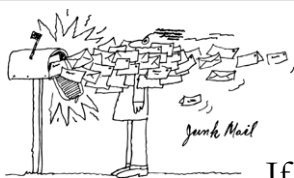
Legislative Update

The legislative committee deadline for voting out all bills was March 1. Since this newsletter was compiled prior to that date and outcomes are not finalized yet, we will provide an overview of some of the bills being considered.

A number of bills were introduced to address various solid waste issues, including: reducing and/or removing environmental threats such as mercury and arsenic; changes offered to the definition/regulation of the outdoor burning of wood (which was affected by the ban on 'backyard burn barrels' instituted last fall); possible changes of the scope of Public Benefit Determinations for solid waste disposal facilities; and, a bill that would create and fund a household hazardous waste collection system. These bills, among others, are being reviewed by the Natural Resources Committee. In addition, the Business, Research and Economic Development Committee is considering a bill that would streamline the workings of the 'Bottle Bill' and establish funding for the Department of Agriculture to oversee this system.

For updated info on these bills, visit the State Legislature website at:

<http://janus.state.me.us/legis/session/>.



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Freeport facility marks the end of '98 Recycling Grants

With the turn of a key, Facility Manager Bart Carhart closed the books on the last recycling grant round while opening a new phase in the operations of the Freeport Transfer Station, Recycling Facility and Landfill. Tom Miragliuolo and Sam Morris visited the Freeport facility and were given a tour of the new four bay demolition debris storage building.

Freeport was the last community to submit a request for reimbursement for funds under the Recycling Capital Investment Grant Cycle that began

in the summer of 1998. Freeport was granted the time extensions because of the lengthy permitting process that involved the siting of their new facilities and other work related to the existing inert landfill. The town also required more time to raise the funds needed to complete the project.

The new pole barn will allow residents to separate and recycle sheet rock, asphalt shingles, window glass, and other recyclable materials from construction/demolition debris. These items would have taken up valuable space and considerably

shortened the life of their existing inert landfill. An estimated 500+ tons of materials will be managed for recycling using the new building.

The 1998 grants round saw nearly \$473,000 grant dollars invested in 26 Maine communities for capital recycling program improvements, facility and equipment upgrades, and new construction. Among the highlights were \$79,000 for the baler upgrade for the cooperative Lewiston/Auburn recycling operation and \$70,000 to the City of Portland for the purchase of 24,000 recycle bins to service their curbside recycling program. Among the more unique projects, was the purchase by Carrabassett Valley of two Earth Tub Composting Vessels, which were located at Sugarloaf to compost the food wastes coming out of the many restaurants and food businesses located in the area. The grant dollars were the balance of the funds remaining from the dismantled Maine Waste Management Agency.

Freeport's new demolition debris storage building



2001 Municipal/Regional Recycling Reports

As of the end of February, 48 municipalities and seven regions had sent their 2001 recycling reports to the SPO. This represents about 17% of the 325 reporting entities. It is already evident that more municipalities are filing their reports electronically this year. If you would like to fill out your report online, please visit our website at www.recyclemaine.com. The deadline for submitting reports is March 31, 2002.



One important item being requested in this year's report is 2001 solid waste and recycling expenses. ***Please make sure you include a copy of your town or region's 2001 expenses along with your 2001 recycling report.***

Once your report has been received and processed, SPO will report back to you with a detailed analysis of your data. Many towns and regions will be receiving Summary Data for the past five years in addition to the graphs showing tons recycled and their recycling rate since 1993. This historic record shows the recycling trend for the town or region. In addition, your data analysis will again include a per person break down of costs and generation rates that you can compare with last year's data.

For more information, or for assistance filling out your report, please contact Hank Tyler at 207-287-1489.

Maine State Planning Office
Waste Management & Recycling Program
38 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0038
1-800-662-4545 or 207-287-8050
www.recyclemaine.com

Pay-As-You-Throw in Maine

Since the beginning of 2002, the communities of Hodgdon, Camden, Rockport, Lincolnville, and Hope have implemented Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) programs. Many other communities statewide are also looking at the option as a way to reduce waste and increase recycling.

The SPO website (www.recyclemaine.com) offers information on the status of PAYT in Maine, implementation steps for communities considering PAYT, and software to study the financial impacts of a PAYT program. SPO staff members are also

available to work with you to develop a cost/benefit analysis of implementing PAYT in your town. For more information, contact Tom Miragliuolo at 207-287-9074.



Coming Soon

March 31, 2002 is the deadline for submitting your **Municipal Solid Waste Annual Report**. For assistance, contact Hank Tyler at 207-287-1489.

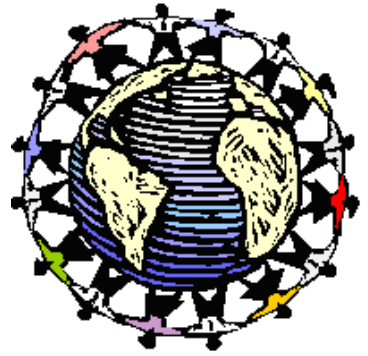
The **MRRA Annual Solid Waste Conference and Recyclathon** will be held **April 8-9, 2002** at the **Samoset Resort** in Rockport. For more information, please see the insert in this newsletter.

Sam Morris will be speaking at the following regional meetings of towns interested in HHW Collections:
Lincoln County, March 19, 6:00pm at the **Emergency Management Building**; **Waldo County, March 20, 6:00pm** at the **Waldo Town Office**. Call 207-287-8054 for more information.

Monday, **April 22nd** is **Earth Day!** See the insert for suggestions on how you can celebrate!

Celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd!

Earth Day, April 22nd, is a once-a-year opportunity to promote waste reduction and recycling as a practical, effective way that *everyone* can protect the environment. The activities that you can plan in celebration of Earth Day are virtually unlimited, depending on how much time and how many resources you are willing to commit. The following is a list of some of our favorite ideas:



- Develop a new educational piece, such as a new brochure on composting;
- Hold an open house at your facility;
- Hold a recycling bin swap, where residents can bring in broken or damaged recycling bins in exchange for new ones;
- Organize a compost bin sale;
- Set up displays on recycling at the schools, library, and/or town office;
- Work with the local public access TV station to create an informative video about your recycling program;
- Work with local radio stations to record public service announcements;
- Work with local businesses to highlight recycled content products for the week preceding Earth Day;
- Start a business waste reduction recognition program, through which businesses will be publicly recognized for waste reduction activities. Suggested activities would include: double-sided copying, increased use of durables over disposables, reduced use of hazardous cleaners, etc. For more ideas, visit the SPO website at www.recyclemaine.com and look for the Model Community Program.
- Make presentations in local schools. Consider arranging for them to participate in the Earth Day Groceries Project (www.earthdaybags.org), a nationwide program through which school children work with local supermarkets to decorate grocery bags for distribution on Earth Day; or
- Sponsor a contest at the local schools to come up with a mascot for your recycling program.

If you would like assistance in planning an Earth Day event, please contact Shannon Haines at SPO at 1-800-662-4545 or via email at shannon.haines@state.me.us.



The Maine Resource Recovery Association presents:
**The 9th Annual
Maine Recycling and Solid Waste Conference & Recyclathon**
Samoset Resort, Rockport, ME
April 8 & 9, 2002

Conference topics to include: Universal Waste handling, Pay as You Throw (PAYT) programs, public education, electronics recycling, and much more!

SEE THE REVERSE FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Maine Resource Recovery Association presents:

**THE NINTH ANNUAL
MAINE RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE CONFERENCE &
RECYCLATHON**

**Monday, April 8th & Tuesday, April 9th, 2002
at the Samoset Resort, Rockport, Maine**

Come and learn what is new and innovative in waste management!



Conference Topics: Experienced leaders in the field will present sessions covering the full range of solid waste issues facing local governments, businesses and citizens - from regulations to market conditions, workplace safety and training to best practices. Specific topics to be addressed include: Universal Waste handling, Pay As You Throw programs, electronics recycling, public education, and much more. We are also pleased to have as our keynote speaker Dr. William Rathje, Professor Emeritus, University of Arizona; Fellow, Stanford Archaeology Center; and Director of the Garbage Project. Dr. Rathje is perhaps the world's preeminent scholar of the sociology of garbage.



Forklift Certification Training & the 9th Annual Recyclathon: A four-hour forklift certification training course will be offered on the first morning of the conference. Following lunch, forklift and skid steer operators will compete for prizes awarded for safe and efficient performance in the Recyclathon.

Financial Aid Available: This year MRRA is able to offer a number of financial assistance packages to first-time attendees representing towns, businesses or programs. Aid will be granted in four categories: Student; Citizen Volunteer; Small Business and Municipal Employee. Students and Citizen Volunteers are eligible for full one-day registration grants of \$60 while Small Business and Municipal Employees are eligible for partial registration grants of \$40. Grants are made available to attendees through funding provided by SPO's Waste Management & Recycling Program.



Awards Nominations: MRRA will be recognizing achievement in eight categories: Best Program, Best Operator/Attendant, Best Manager, Most Improved Program, Volunteer of the Year, Composter of the Year, Business Recycling and Outstanding Material Quality. In addition, the annual **Governor's Awards for Waste Reduction** will be presented at the luncheon on Tuesday, April 9th.

To receive conference sponsorship, exhibitor or registration materials, scholarship applications or to make a nomination for one of the above-mentioned awards, please contact the MRRA at 207-942-6772 or email johna@mint.net.